

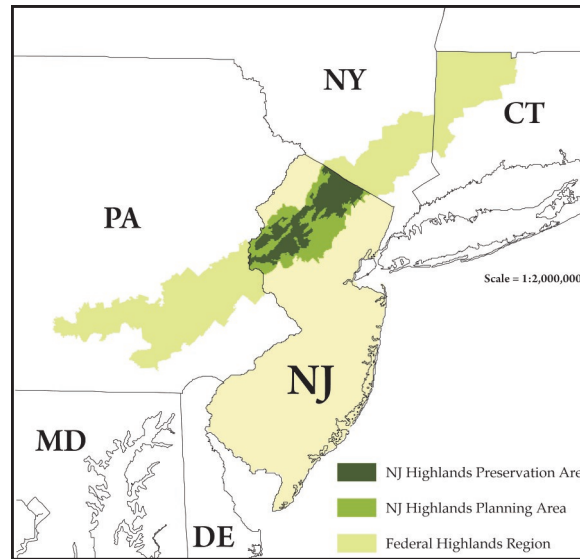


## Partnerships for Growth

As a regional planning entity, the Highlands Council works in partnership with municipalities and counties to develop programs and planning initiatives that help ensure the long-term health of the region's natural resources and economies.

Funding and expertise is available to support planning in a variety of areas:

- Water Use & Conservation Management
- Stream and Lake Protection
- Wastewater Management
- Sustainable Economic Development
- Redevelopment
- Agricultural Retention
- Agritourism
- Ecotourism
- Green Building/Environmental Sustainability/Alternative Energy
- Transfer of Development Rights



## The New Jersey Highlands At a Glance

- Nearly 860,000 acres
- 1,300+ square miles
- Provides drinking water for more than 5 million New Jersey residents
- 88 municipalities in 7 counties: Bergen, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Warren
- NJ Highlands Act passed: August 2004
- Regional Master Plan adopted by Highlands Council: July 2008



### State of New Jersey

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The New Jersey Highlands  
Water Protection and Planning Council

# Planning for the Future of New Jersey's Water



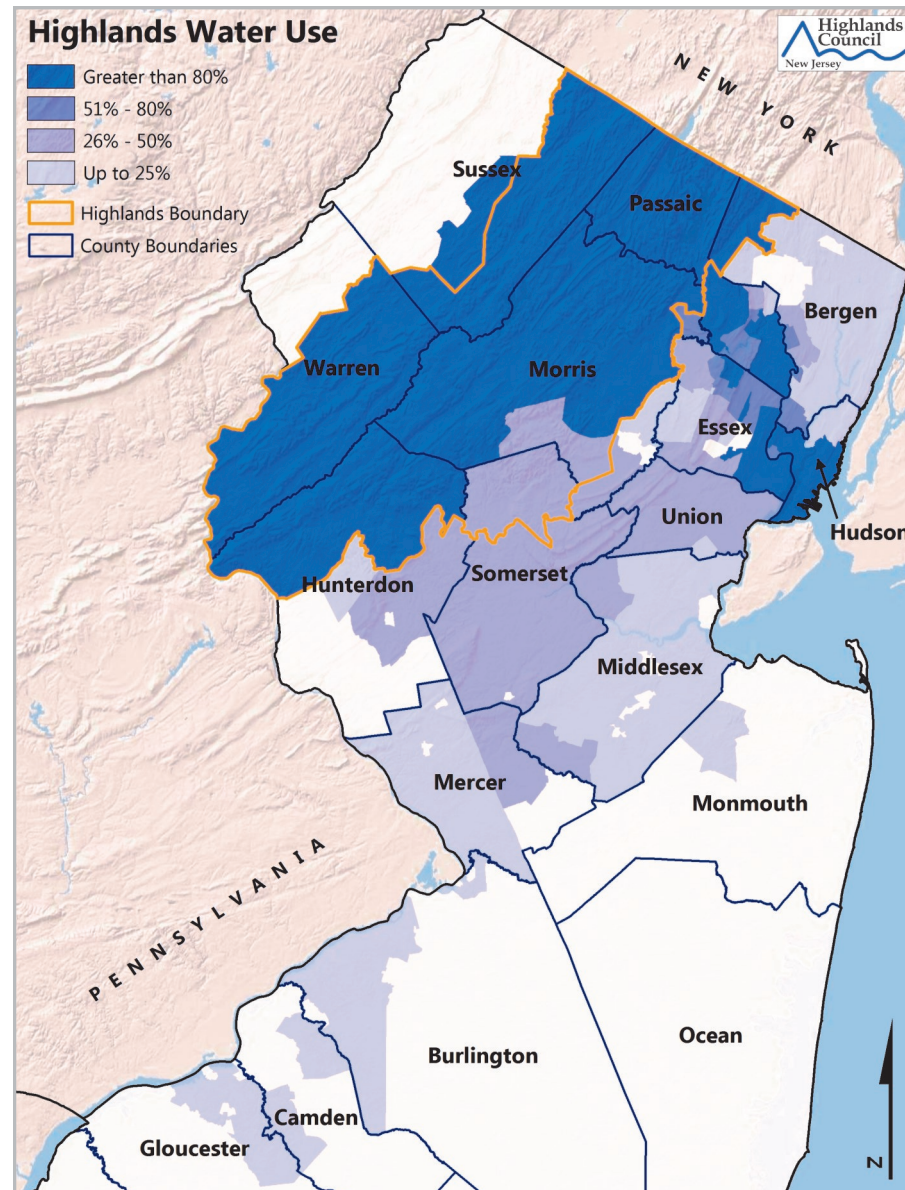
# The Highlands Council

The New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council is a regional planning agency charged with protecting drinking water for more than half the residents of New Jersey.

The Highlands Council was established by the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act of 2004. The Act delineated the boundaries of the Highlands Region and required that the Council create a Regional Master Plan (RMP) to guide development in it. The Act divided the Highlands Region into two distinct parts: the Preservation Area, in which conformance with the RMP is required, and the Planning Area in which conformance with the RMP is voluntary.

The 15-member Council created and administers a plan conformance program, authorizes proposed projects, and sets policy on matters related to the Highlands Region. The Council is supported in its efforts by a professional staff of planning, science and GIS experts.

The Council shares jurisdiction in the region and works in close collaboration with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.



## Who's drinking and using Highlands water?

The Highlands Region covers less than 15% of New Jersey, but provides drinking water for more than half its residents. While the Region's forests and open spaces retain and filter large quantities of water, rapid development has increasingly transformed

communities and impaired nature's ability to do its job. Because families, farms and businesses all depend on a steady supply of clean water, and because water resources do not follow municipal boundaries, a regional approach is required to protect and conserve the vital natural resources of the Highlands.